

DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

CRIME AND DISORDER (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting of the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee held on Wednesday 26 July 2017.

PRESENT: Councillor R J Wells (Chairman)
Councillor A S Sandhu, MBE (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor S R Jarnell
Councillor M B Kelly
Councillor M A Maddison
Councillor C S McLean
Councillor D J Mote

ABSENT: Councillor R Lees

Dartford Borough Council Officers:-

Sheri Green	– Strategic Director (External Services)
Mark Salisbury	– EARS & CSU Manager
Tony Henley	– Community Safety Manager, CSU
Lewis Kirnon	– Town Centre & Business Support Manager, CSU
Mike Morgan	– D-TAC Intelligence Manager, CSU
Jade Ransley	– Community Safety Officer, CSU

CABINET MEMBERS: Councillor Mrs. Ann Allen MBE, Portfolio Holder for Community Development

ALSO PRESENT TO RESPOND TO ISSUES RAISED BY THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Insp. Gary Woodward	– CSU Inspector, Kent Police
Emily Matthews	– DA Commissioning Officer, KCC

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor R Lees.

Councillor Ann Allen MBE, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community Development, was in attendance by standing invitation from the Committee.

Councillor D A Hammock, former Lead Member for Licensing & Enforcement was in attendance by invitation and contributed to Member discussion at the discretion of the Chairman.

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The Chairman welcomed his guests, Emily Matthews from KCC and INSP Gary Woodward from Kent Police and noted the presence of the Strategic Director (External Services), EARS Manager, Community Safety Manager, Town Centre & Business Support Manager and D-TAC Intelligence Manager from the CSU.

He also extended a special welcome to Jade Ransley, the Council's recently appointed Community Safety Officer (CSO), who was attending her first meeting of the Committee and asked that the efforts of Jade's predecessor as CSO, Kit Weller, be recorded in the Minutes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2017

RESOLVED:

1. That the Minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 15 February 2017 be confirmed as an accurate record of those proceedings.

4. URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman confirmed that there were no items of urgency for the Committee to consider.

5. TO CONSIDER REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES (IF ANY)

There were no references from other Committees.

6. REGULATION 9 NOTICE

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the Regulation 9 Notice for the period 15 June 2017 to 31 October 2017 be noted.

7. KENT POLICE AND CRIME PANEL (PCP) - UPDATE

The Chairman confirmed his appointment as Dartford's representative on the Kent & Medway Police and Crime Panel (PCP) following the General Assembly of the Council held on 17 July 2017 [GAC Min. No. 36 refers]. He asked that the contribution of his predecessor as Dartford rep. on the Panel, Councillor Chris Shippam, be recorded in the Minutes.

The Chairman advised Members that he had attended the PCP meeting held on 20 July 2017 in his new role. He had welcomed the re-election of Mr P M Hill, OBE as Chairman of the cross-party Panel for 2017-18, also the re-election of Mr Gurvinder Sandher as Vice-Chairman. Mr Sandher would be familiar to some Members, through his work with the Kent Equality Cohesion Council.

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The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Mr Matthew Scott had addressed the Panel on 20 July. He had advised Members that Kent Police Officer numbers had now increased by 260 since the cuts of 2010 including an increase in Firearms Officers. It was hoped that a further 100 Firearms Officers would be recruited by 2018 to meet ever-increasing demand for that cadre. The PCC had also expressed his disappointment over the findings of the recent HMIC *Crime Data Integrity 2017* inspection report of Kent Police. However, the Commissioner had also noted that the Chief Constable had responded positively to the HMIC inspection findings and had advised that Kent Police's audit processes for recording crime and lack of Officer training and supervision, were already being addressed.

In the absence of a Dartford Member at the PCP meetings held on 2 February 2017 and 28 March 2017, Minutes of the Panel's proceedings had been included in the Agenda papers for Members to note [pages 19-32].

RESOLVED:

1. That Members note the contents of the Kent & Medway Police and Crime Panel Minutes for 2 February and 28 March 2017 and the Chairman's verbal update of the Panel proceedings held on 20 July 2017;
2. That Members note with thanks, the efforts of Councillor Chris Shippam as Dartford representative on the Kent and Medway Police & Crime Panel during the 2016-17 municipal cycle and to the proceedings of the Committee.

8. REVIEW OF KENT'S DOMESTIC ABUSE (DA) FRAMEWORK

Members received a PowerPoint presentation from Emily Matthews, Commissioning Officer, Kent County Council entitled - '*Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Services*'.

The KCC Commissioning Officer advised Members that the change in social attitude towards Domestic Abuse (DA); in particular the reporting of incidents by victims and their expectation of action from authorities and positive outcomes for themselves; had necessitated a wholesale review of the DA Framework of services for victims in Kent by the County Council. She highlighted the fact that 3 cases of DA homicide had occurred in Kent during 2016-17. The essential review of each tragic case cost some £20K and it was essential that lessons were learnt and existing measures and procedures improved as appropriate. Her presentation covered the following principal areas:

Context

- 60,000 DA victims in Kent & Medway based on Home Office 'ready reckoner' tool;

- Cost to Kent's public services estimated at £170M per annum;
- All DA services experiencing a large increase in demand;
- Over 25,00 calls made to Police in 12 months to August 2014 regarding domestic abuse;
- Over 3,000 children known to Social Services live in households where DA is a factor.

Map of Previous Provision [up to April 2017]

- Women's refuge with resettlement support (KCC) situated nearby to Dartford, Sevenoaks, Swanley, Maidstone, Ashford, Shepway Canterbury, Thanet and Dover;
- KCC 'Floating Support' throughout the County;
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) (multi-agency funded) throughout the County;
- Freedom Programme (Grants/Charitable funding) situated nearby to Gravesham, Tonbridge and Malling, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Swanley, Ashford, Canterbury and Thanet;
- Advice and Recovery Services (Grants/Charitable funding) – situated near to Gravesham, Tonbridge and Malling, Tunbridge Wells, Ashford, Shepway, Canterbury and Thanet.

Kent suffered from a geographical inconsistency in services with a support gap in rural areas. An added complication was funding sustainability issues for voluntary and short-term support services in support of DA victims.

A Choice to Make

- Number of key DA contracts - Kent Refuges, Floating Support and IDVA (multi-agency funded) – were due to end on 31 March 2017;
- No increase in funding was anticipated under the continuing climate of downward pressure on existing budgets;
- Choice of 'same again' services with potentially decreasing resources and increasing demand or a 'managed decline';
- OR, do something different? – Make existing resources go further through 'new ways of working' within existing budgetary constraints.

Evidence Base

- **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)** – Greater Integration; Improved Interventions; Integrated Pathways; Effective offer to 'hard to reach groups' e.g. substance abuse, mental health, perpetrators etc.; Commission services which increase numbers of victims who can stay in their own homes;
- **Chartered Institute of Housing Needs Analysis** – Gaps for service users with complex needs; move on challenges; need for more collaborative commissioning;
- **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Needs Assessment** – Commissioning of an integrated, holistic model of support;
- **NICE Guidance** – Commission integrated care pathways;

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- **Summary** – All the evidence points in the same direction...’better if we do it together’.

Integrated working was essential to address the varied and complex needs of victims.

The Proposal – By pooling budgets, commissioning collaboratively, integrating pathways and retaining local expertise it is possible to:-

- Reshape the landscape of domestic abuse services;
- Deliver better outcomes and efficiencies;
- Establish a stable, sustainable platform from which innovation can flourish;
- Increase the focus on the customer journey – prevention, seamless transition into different elements of service delivery;
- Reduce geographical inconsistency;
- Create seamless client journeys with better outcomes;
- Provide a single point of access and triage;
- Ensure charitable and grant funding is able to enhance strong core provision;
- Enable more coherent strategic oversight.

Focus on the client was essential, addressing the victim’s feelings and wants and reducing the geographical inconsistency in service provision across the County. KCC had worked hard during the last 2-3 years to provide a County-wide integrated service with a cascading funding provision through KCC downwards to the District Councils.

Consultation Outcomes

- Consultation period from 8 June – 15 August 2016;
- Significant support for the proposal to integrate from wide range of stakeholders;
- Two key areas of concern – countrywide model may prove unwieldy/inefficient, fear of a loss of local knowledge and expertise – feedback on both these areas of concern have been absorbed and fed into the model.

Triage, Assessment & Referral – Lever in existing PCC’s Victim Support service for standard and medium risk victims and enhance with funding from Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) resources for high risk victims, through a County-wide Training, Awareness and Education programme in four (4) specified areas to provide DA victims with accommodation and community support. Provider requirements to include:-

- Holistic delivery on an area basis;
- To develop and maintain partnerships and networks across the area(s);

- To have comprehensive oversight over the contract area, respond to changing demands and move to a more community based model of delivery;
- To work with commissioners and partners to contribute to a coordinated, networked community response, articulated well with other provision.

The tender process was run on quality not price with the objective of obtaining for DA victims the most innovative support available in the market.

Strategic Development

- Flexible dynamic network that develops, not just DA specific links but allied areas e.g. Live well, Early Help;
- Securing and simplifying future governance – complex picture to secure Safeguarding objectives;
- The key requirement to addressing the Toxic Trio of – Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse and Mental Health, which can all occur in the same household, underlining the need for an holistic approach by service providers, rather than the traditional ‘silo’ approach to address individual victim needs;
- 5 year flexible outcome focussed contract [with 4 year renewal option], that will develop over time to achieve the goals of Devolution, a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy, with Health and Social Care integration, rolled out over three stages; Stage 1 – Select Area Leads, fix current issues, establish basic networks and baseline measure; Stage 2 – Co-design outcomes framework and incentivisation scheme, opportunity for further integration; Stage 3 – Review progress and network, develop and broaden where necessary, consider redistribution of investment, prepare consider and co-produce for next model of commissioning.

A Strategy Group had been set up to address the complicated structure of service provision in Kent, and increase individual accountability amongst service providers.

The new service landscape – new service comprising 4 large areas under an integrated contract, based on services that had previously been provided in a ‘silo’ rather than an ‘holistic’ approach:-

- Dartford, Gravesham, Swale and Maidstone;
- Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling and Tonbridge Wells;
- Ashford, Canterbury and Shepway;
- Dover and Thanet.

Medway was under separate contract and provision arrangements.

What is different?

- Comprehensive network of support, no wrong door, no repeated referrals, no restrictions on help offered to victims;
- Quicker , effective action, lower waiting times;

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- Clear pathways for victims in their own communities, using assets they know well;
- Fall in number of high risk victims (fewer MARAC);
- Medium risk outreach new and more effective to prevent escalation to high risk victims;
- Focus on reducing harm earlier;
- Overall reduction in harm to vulnerable adults and children;
- Fewer domestic homicides, fewer reviews;
- Clearer response for hard to reach groups e.g. men, BAME, older people;
- Meaningful data to enable strategically driven **evidenced** change;
- Better data-sharing;
- The sector will be brought together under an interface agreement outlining the outcomes and behaviours upon which we agree.

Co-ordinating data collection to obtain maximum results and improve and develop the new services would be essential.

Dartford Service April – July 2017

- Services delivered by Centra Support from within a larger Housing Group which has the infrastructure to get results ;
- Working to build local links with key partners, stakeholders and support groups, attending DA Forums, delivering at One Stop Shops;
- Widespread improvements to refuge accommodation including: upgraded CCTV and door intercoms, deep clean of all accommodation, introduction of door intercoms to improve safety, consultation currently underway for total redecoration;
- Face to face IDVA service with ‘drop-in’ visits rather than remote ‘helpline’ support;
- Improved Outreach provision for medium and standard risk victims.

Centra’s Dartford Links

- Council Housing Department;
- Social Services;
- Health Visitors;
- Witness Care Unit (for Court support) via Centra and Citizens’ Advice Bureau (CAB);
- Paladin (stalking and harassment);
- MARAC;
- Family Matters;
- Mind;
- Iranian and Kurdish Women’s Rights;
- Kent Police.

Centra are keen to expand links and welcome joint working and contributions as to how to develop services.

The Numbers

- 42 - IDVA (high risk);
- 32 - Outreach;
- 17 – Refuge;
- Equating to 91 victims supported.

The above figures did not include walk-in victims attending One Stop Shops, Brief advice & guidance cases, Resettlement support or MARAC Support cases.

The Dartford Refuge was consistently full; with clients staying in the Refuge for between 3 and 18 months dependent on their individual circumstances.

Coming Soon...

- Hospital IDVA service to be delivered in Darenth Valley Hospital with KCC and PCC support financed by a 3 year Home Office VAWG Transformation Funding programme to provide full-time on site support for DA victims admitted to DVH;
- Through partnership and collaboration during the life of the contract (including residual services from the 'Choices' scheme), ongoing transformation, evolution and improvement to the service offer, to victims of domestic abuse and their families.

Feedback would be sought from individual service providers on a 12-18 month cycle of change and improvement.

In a subsequent Q&A session the following points were confirmed by the KCC Commissioning Officer and the Strategic Director (External Services) in response to specific questions from Members:

- Ownership and Governance of Kent's new Integrated Domestic Abuse Services [IDAS] would most likely sit within the Safeguarding and Social Care Directorates of the County Authority;
- Domestic Homicide Reviews were best co-ordinated by unitary authorities. KCC led in Kent with District authorities contributing as appropriate. The KCC funding request for DA Homicide Reviews had been received after budgets had been set in Dartford. The SD(ES) advised that this had necessitated some budget flexibility;
- The IDVA Service was traditionally advertised in public toilets and facilities in government buildings, via the KCC website and to a degree, through collaborative work with Kent Police. KCC perceived a need to update training and awareness and to improve message dissemination to advertise the new integrated services through more 'media savvy' partners;
- Service transition issues and risks, including 'hot spots' for services had been addressed through the 'evolving' model of service provision by Contra, using the 'whole family' approach. Records showed that some 90% of DA victims wished to stay in the abusive relationship, consequently the new service provision had to concentrate its work in

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the area of keeping partners and families safe together. Financing the new service given the partnership aspect was a 'risk'. Contingency plans were in place for a 10-20% reduction in service provision, should funding streams fail;

- Capacity issues at the Dartford Refuge were addressed by KCC through a 3 monthly performance report cycle to identify any possible gaps in provision and to identify external help as required. Victims of DA were housed under a national network agreement; if a local Refuge was full, victims could be accommodated in the next nearest Refuge under the terms of the National Agreement. 'Choices' also continued to work in the Dartford area within the new Centra contract.

The Chairman thanked the Commissioning Officer for her excellent and comprehensive presentation.

9. DARTFORD TOWN AGAINST CRIME (D-TAC) PROGRESS REPORT

The update report asked Members to note the progress made by the Dartford Town Against Crime (D-TAC) scheme during the previous 12 months against the objectives/targets outlined in the 2016-18 D-TAC Business Plan (attached as Appendix A to the report).

In addition to the Agenda papers, Members received a PowerPoint presentation from the D-TAC Intelligence Manager which set out in bar chart format, statistical data for D-TAC performance in respect of:

- D-TAC Radio Coverage of the Borough [highlighted map outlining current and projected radio coverage in Dartford];
- Monthly number of incidents processed by D-TAC;
- Offenders on D-TAC Disk;
- Number of D-TAC members with access to Disc (70 Businesses);
- Member log-ins to D-TAC Disk & What'sApp. access;
- Top crime types reported to Disc in past 12 months;
- Property lost or recovered in Dartford;
- Crime in Town Centre Ward;
- ASB, Damage & Public order offences in Dartford Town 2016-17;
- Shoplifting in Dartford Town Centre;
- Robbery, Theft Person & Violence (assaults);
- Longfield – All Crime;
- ASB, Violence & Public order 2016-2017 in Longfield;
- Shoplifting in Longfield

The D-TAC Intelligence Manager made the following general comments in support of his presentation:

It was hoped to extend the current D-TAC radio coverage beyond the Town Centre in the next 2 weeks to encompass more of the Borough. The monthly number of incidents processed by D-TAC referred to an area within 1 mile of the Town Centre plus Station Road Longfield. D-TAC system data had

recently been 'cleansed' to ensure that it was compliant with the requirements of the Data Protection Act and the Information Commissioner's Office. Some 60 people/business' regularly logged onto the D-TAC facilities. Separate D-TAC logs were kept for Dartford's Daytime and Nighttime economies and users were subject to signed confidentiality agreements under which images of suspected offenders had to be deleted from telephones within 48 hours, to comply with the Data Protection Act. Whilst recorded losses of property continued to far outstrip recoveries, the stats also reflected more reporting from retailers through increased confidence in the D-TAC scheme, and the inclusion of a dedicated Town Centre PC since June 2016. The bar chart recording crime in the Town Centre in the period April 2016 to April 2017 was regarded as accurate; notwithstanding the HMIC report on Kent Police crime recording; given that it was based in the main on reporting from local businesses. The three bar charts separately recording; '*ASB, Damage & Public Order offenses in the Dartford Town 2016-17*'; '*Shoplifting in the Town Centre [Kent Police stats.]*' and '*Robbery, Theft Person and Violence (assaults) in the Town Centre*'; all recorded marked peaks and troughs in activity. ASB and Damage appeared to be seasonal and impacted variously by good weather and the school holiday cycles. However, following the introduction of the dedicated Town Centre PC it was felt that matters were gradually being brought under control following the April 2017 peak in activity.

In response to subsequent questions from Members, the D-TAC Intelligence, Town Centre & Business Support, Community Safety and the EARS/CSU Managers, supported by the CSU Police Inspector, confirmed the following specific points:

- Spikes in criminal activity in the Town Centre appeared to be affected by good weather, school terms and holiday periods, the continuing economic climate and the release of known offenders from custodial sentences;
- There was no data available to determine whether there was a discernible difference in the rate of violent incidents against the person recorded between the Day and Night time economies in Dartford;
- Getting a visible Police presence out on the streets in the Town Centre, especially on Friday and Saturday nights, was recognised as an effective deterrent in reducing incidents of crime later in the evening. The CSU Inspector was undertaking a review of the current '*Safer Streets*' policy for Dartford Town Centre, together with his Sergeants and would report the outcome verbally to the Committee in February 2018;
- D-TAC Notices were served on persistent offenders which barred them from all shops in the DTAC network. Hard-core offenders were more difficult to dissuade and the Town Centre PC was enlisted in such cases as a priority;
- Since the July 2016 report to the Committee, CSU Officers and Kent Police had detected a marked upswing in confidence amongst retail businesses and an increase in their reporting of incidents. The appointment of the Town Centre PC had helped to significantly increase confidence. Orchard security staff and when required, CSU staff, had helped in the immediate recovery of goods stolen from the Town Centre;

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- The D-TAC awards ceremony for businesses and the expansion of D-TAC's radio coverage and introduction of the WhatsApp facility were also seen as evidence of significant progress for the Scheme in the period under review;
- Management of the CCTV system in the Town Centre had been retained in-house by the Council, rather than privately out-sourced, significantly aiding the collection and access of footage;
- The D-TAC Intelligence Manager had also built effective working relationships with Gravesend and Bluewater management in the period under review and had recently been asked to become Chairman of the Kent Business Crime Network;
- The EARS and D-TAC Managers had recently attended a 'Crime-Stoppers/D-TAC' initiative at Leeds Castle, where Dartford's D-TAC operation had been highlighted as a successful 'exemplar' for the Scheme, aimed at '*prevent and deter*' rather than '*catch and convict*'.

RESOLVED:

1. That Members note the progress made by the D-TAC Scheme in the period under review as set out in the report;
2. That Members note the proposals detailed in the Scheme's Business Plan 2016-18 document attached as Appendix A to the report;
3. That Members note the statistical data presented by the Intelligence Manager recording D-TAC performance in the period under review [tabled].

10. RESPONSE TO UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS (DRAW-DOWN)

The report from the Enforcement & Regulatory Services (EARS) Manager provided an overview of the Council's and Kent Police's response to Unauthorised (Traveller) Encampments in the Borough, including an explanation of the legislative context within which action was taken and how the Council and Kent Police operated in partnership, within the context of a bespoke Memorandum of Understanding (attached as Appendix A to the report). The report was submitted in response to an expression of concern from the Lead Member for Enforcement & Community Safety, through the Committee's Draw-Down process.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Lead Member outlined his particular concerns for the Committee. He acknowledged the positive outcomes Council Enforcement Officers had recently achieved with Kent Police to address Unauthorised Encampments (UEs) in the Borough e.g. at Dartford Heath. However, the resolution of the recent UE of Travellers at the Council's recently re-furbished and prestigious Fairfield Pool and Community Centre had taken far too long to resolve and had caused the Council significant embarrassment and a loss of reputation and confidence with residents. In particular, he had perceived a lack of consistency in the interpretation and

enforcement of the MoU and a lack of local knowledge on the part of Kent Police in resolving the Fairfield UE. He asked what had gone wrong.

The CSU Police Inspector gave an initial response to Members. He advised that he had not been in Dartford during the resolution of the Fairfield UE and could not therefore comment in detail. However, as the local Police Inspector and in line with national practice, his would have been the final decision to serve notice to clear the UE at Fairfield. He was aware of the need to disseminate his local knowledge concerning the resolution of UEs to his three Sergeants in the CSU and give them the confidence to act in his absence, especially over the issue of Section 61(S61) Notices [MoU - agenda pages 54/55]. He added that all/any UEs were now raised at the daily CSU briefing, by the District Chief Inspector. He also confirmed, in response to a further specific question on S61s, that whilst the legislation referred to 'the most senior officer on scene'; this was recognised nationally as being a Police Officer of Inspector rank and that an Inspector would always be found to attend a UE in Dartford if required.

The Lead Member expressed his thanks for Inspector Woodward's explanation and background to the UE process in Dartford, the Fairfield incident in particular, and the clear and concise report from the EARS Manager. He stressed that he did not wish to appear entirely negative in his comments and appreciated the emails he received from the Enforcement Manager on a variety of issues. However, residents continued to express their concerns over UEs and fly-tipping, particularly over the week-ends.

In further response, the CSU Inspector advised Members that he had some 8 years' experience in dealing with Travellers and incursions and that the Council's joint Memorandum with Kent Police to address UEs was praised as a working model across Kent. The Strategic Director (External Services) supported this view, advising that Dartford was unique across Kent in dealing with UEs through a collaborative MoU arrangement between Kent Police Dartford and CSU Officers with high levels of skill and experience in the field.

Councillor Hammock (Bean & Darenth) had been invited to attend the Committee's proceedings as a former Lead Member for Licensing & Enforcement. He thanked Kent Police for resolving recent fly-tipping issues in Darenth Parish and expressed his support of the joint MoU arrangements to address UEs with one proviso. He referred Members to paragraph 13 of the EARS Manager's report (agenda p. 52) and proposed that the final bullet point be added as a final box to the cascading diagram on agenda page 56. He also asked whether any action was ever taken to recover costs from Travellers following clearance of UE sites.

The CSU Inspector advised that all Kent Police Officers were now issued with body-worn video technology when visiting UEs and that video footage could be used to confirm UE site clearances. He confirmed that Kent Police did not seek to recover costs for UE site clearances, but that local authorities might.

Officers undertook to respond to Members on both points.

RESOLVED:

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1. That Members note the report detailing the Council's and Kent Police's operational procedures for responding to Unauthorised (Traveller) Encampments in the Borough and the legislative context for those joint actions, taken in partnership with Kent Police [Dartford], within the context of the bespoke Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) attached as Appendix A to the report.

11. PERFORMANCE

This covering report was considered together with EXEMPT Item A in closed session [Min. No. 13 refers].

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman advised that, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), he was required to ask that all members of the press and public present to vacate the Council Chamber, prior to consideration of the Dartford & Gravesham Community Safety Partnership (CSP's) Quarterly Performance Report [EXEMP Item A] together with the covering report from the Community Safety Manager (CSM).

The Committee Co-ordinator confirmed that no members of the press or public were present.

13. CSP PERFORMANCE REPORT

The covering report from the Community Safety Manager (agenda Item 12) asked the Committee to note the contents of the Dartford & Gravesham Community Safety Partnership's Quarterly Performance Report - June 2017 (attached as Item A in the EXEMPT papers) which detailed performance in relation to levels of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour (ASB) recorded in the Boroughs of Dartford and Gravesham. The Performance report had been discussed by the CSP at their meeting on 22 June 2017.

The Community Safety Manager (CSM's) covering report advised Members that the format of the CSP's Quarterly Performance Report for June 2017 differed from that of previous documents. Performance was now being compared with that of the prior Quarter, rather than the corresponding Quarter in the prior year, as before. The June 2017 report covered the final Quarter of the 2016-17 financial year and compared performance to the prior Quarter [October–December 2016]. The June 2017 report also utilised the revised set of performance indicators (PIs) set-out in the CSP's 2016-19 Community Strategy and subsequent 2017 Refresh documents [Min. No. 14 refers].

The new PIs were more reliant on data from partner agencies than in previous years and this had led to some difficulties over differing reporting periods for individual agencies, the frequency data was collected by individual agencies and the subsequent availability of the data to CSUs and CSPs. Some of the

data was taken directly from front-line recording systems; rather than the audited figures released to the public; and were therefore subject to an 'obligation of confidence' by recipients. The new PIs were used by CSPs across Kent and marked a departure from the traditional Police-led statistics of previous years, by adopting a range of alternative measures to demonstrate progress in tackling risk, harm and improving quality of life for residents.

However, there was no standard dataset and CSU Officers had to make individual enquiries to partner agencies to obtain the information each CSU and CSP required. This data gathering process had been identified as an area in which efficiency could be improved, if a collaborative request was submitted by KCC or by CSUs jointly, and this proposal would be pursued by CSMs when they met at County level.

The Dartford and Gravesham CSP continued to work at County level to improve both access to data sets and more importantly, obtain insights into what risks the data identified. The importance of that policy had been underlined by the publication of a recent report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) entitled - ***Kent Police: Crime Data Integrity Inspection 2017***. The HMIC report [subject to embargo when the CSM's report had been written] had raised concerns over crime recording and data gathering by Kent Police. The findings of the report had obvious implications for data gathering by individual Community Safety Units and Community Safety Partnerships across Kent, as addressed elsewhere in these Minutes.

The CSM highlighted the following points for Members from the June 2017 Performance report [EXEMPT Item A] prior to taking questions:

- The June 2017 Performance report provided data from Kent Police for recorded crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) and statistics provided by other partner agencies made available to CSPs through the Kent County Council's Community Safety Portal;
- The Quarterly Performance reports supported the CSP's annual Strategic Assessment and Action Plan process by providing quarterly updates which focussed on the most current data to better identify any emerging trends and patterns;
- The data provided by the KCC Community Safety Portal was not Dartford centric and was submitted without any contextual analysis;
- The data showed a slight decrease for overall crime for Dartford in the Quarter under review, in contrast to a small increase in overall crime recorded for Kent;
- The '*iQuanta Bar Chart MSG (3 months) – Crimes per 1,000 population*' [Agenda p. 140] of the EXEMPT document listed increases in crime for the 15 Most Similar CSP's in Dartford's Group, but gave no analysis of, or context for, the data;
- The '*iQuanta Bar Chart*' showed that rates of crime per 1,000 of the population for Dartford (based on the latest Quarter) remained the highest for any Kent District and 13th highest out of the 15 CSPs in Dartford's Most Similar Group (MSG);
- The corrective action taken by Kent Police to record crime following the publication of the HMIC report in March 2017 was seen as a primary

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cause for the rise in Dartford's crime compared to other CSPs in their MSG;

- Positive developments in the Quarter under review had been the formation of a new Vulnerability Forum and the holding of 3 workshops in March 2017 to address Human Trafficking.

Members expressed their concern over the HMIC report findings. Both in the current context and historically, given that Kent Police had consistently cited the high accuracy of the recording of crime by the Force; the so called 'Kent Test' established by HMIC following their inspection of Kent Police in 2013; as the reason for Dartford's high crime rate and poor performance within the context of its Most Similar Group of CSPs. The findings of the latest HMIC inspection report contradicted this theory, and some Members questioned whether the Committee could have any confidence in crime data produced by Kent Police since 2014 and going forward.

The CSU Police Inspector acknowledged the concerns and frustrations of Members. Concerns shared by Kent's Chief Constable who had reacted positively and swiftly with measures to address the findings of the HMIC report. The new measures would be relayed to CSUs, CSPs and Members in due course.

In response to further specific questions from Members he advised the following:

- The fact that Dartford had the worst crime rate per 1,000 of the population [June PR para 2.2] did *not* mean Dartford was given a correspondingly high number of Police Officers to re-dress the situation. Rural District Authorities [with lower crime rates than Dartford] required an equal number of Police Officers, because of the greater area that had to be covered. However, crime rate was a factor in the dispersment of Kent Police resources;
- He expressed the hope that Members would retain their confidence in Kent Police's recording of crime; despite the adverse findings in the HMIC March 2017 inspection report; given that the Chief Constable had already introduced a variety of measures to address specific failings identified by HMIC, including the appointment of a fully trained Crime Recording Registrar;
- The Chief Constables positive leadership and actions had achieved a significant rise in Kent Police's recording of crime, now up to 93% from the low of 83% recorded by HMIC in March 2017. It was hoped the figure would increase further to the 96% recorded by HMIC in their 2013/14 inspection of Kent Police;
- He asked Members to note that only 1 Police Force in England had passed the latest 2017 round of HMIC inspections. There had been changes in the Home Office 'rules' for recording crime since 2013/14

with particular crime types (especially those against the person) impacted by the changes more than others. An example was given of a single person swearing in public had to be recorded on a multiple basis, defined by the number of persons present at any given incident. These new multiple crime recording requirements; added to the fact that Forces could no longer 'cancel' crimes previously recorded [but on investigation not committed] without obtaining additional verifiable information (AVI); had the propensity to severely distort crime figures, and Forces were now expressing their concerns about these changes;

- The current crime reporting model did not allow for the separating out of multiple crime incidents to better inform CSUs and CSPs of underlying and emerging crime trends, to maximise the use of their resources and properly inform their Community Safety Strategy and annual Refresh documents;
- The CSU Inspector and his 3 Sergeants scrutinised all crime reported in Dartford, but did not claim to be expert in the field of crime recording. Members might wish to consider requesting a presentation from a Kent Police crime data expert, to a future meeting of the Committee;
- The Community Safety Manager supported the proposal to have a Kent Police or KCC crime data expert attend a future meeting of the Committee. There was a need to drill down into the current data for recorded crime and establish the integrity of the current figures, given the ongoing operational implications for Dartford's CSU resources.

The Chairman and Members welcomed the proposal to invite either a Kent Police or KCC crime data expert to address a future meeting of the Committee. Local authorities needed to be aware of the context and underlying themes surrounding increases in locally recorded crime and what impact new national strictures for crime recording were having on those increases. Recorded crime data needed to be properly analysed and put into context at the local level to enable individual CSUs and CSPs to effectively deploy their resources in a planned and strategic fashion, to address crime in their areas, including the assessment of emerging trends and spikes in existing criminal activity.

RESOLVED:

1. That Members note the contents of the Dartford & Gravesham Community Safety Partnership's Quarterly Performance Report (June 2017) as attached at EXEMPT Item A in the Agenda;
2. That a presentation by a KCC or Kent Police crime data expert be added to the Committee's Work Plan for the remainder of 2017-18.

14. 2017 REFRESH TO CSP COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY (2016-19)

The covering report from the Community Safety Manager asked Members to consider the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Strategy 2016-19 (2017 Refresh) document [attached as Appendix A to the report] and comment accordingly.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

CRIME AND DISORDER (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 26 JULY 2017

The 2017 Refresh document updated the CSP's Community Safety Strategy 2016-19 document considered by Members in February 2017 [Min. No. 25 refers]. The 2017 Refresh gave details of new emerging patterns of crime in the interim period and linked those developments to the CSP's Strategic Assessment document. However, the vast majority of the 2016-19 Strategy document remained relevant.

The Lead Member for Enforcement & Community Safety was given confirmation on two points in the 2017 Refresh document:

- a) Transforming Rehabilitation (TR) - 2017 Refresh report, page 5 [Agenda p.70] – the TR Programme was taken forward jointly with Gravesham Council;
- b) The dedicated Bluewater Police Team was trained to counter terrorist incidents.

The CSU Police Inspector confirmed the Chairman's advice to Members, that Bluewater was 1 of only 4 facilities in Kent that had permanently armed Police on duty [12 PCs]. He added that the Bluewater Police team were due to be issued with Tasers in the coming weeks and that Officers within the Bluewater team were trained in behavioural detection techniques, which helped Officers deter/prevent criminal activity through the preliminary assessment of an observed individual's body language.

RESOLVED:

1. That Members note the contents of the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership's Community Safety Strategy 2016-19 (2017 Refresh) document as attached at Appendix A to the report.

15. CRIME AND DISORDER (O&S) COMMITTEE ROLLING WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2017-18 AND BEYOND

The report asked Members to agree the contents and timeframe for a rolling Work Programme [attached as Appendix A to the report] for the 2017-18 municipal year and beyond as required by the Committee's Protocol.

The Chairman proposed the following amendments to the *draft* Work Plan at Appendix A in light of the Committee's various discussions that evening:

- Presentation by KCC/Kent Police 'expert' on the crime dated dispersed to Kent CSUs and CSPs and how it relates to crime recorded and committed in individual CSP areas [February 2018];
- Verbal Update from the CSU Kent Police Inspector on his review of Kent Police's 'Safer Streets' policy for Dartford [February 2018];
- Confirm appearance by the Kent PCC to explain his funding priorities and spending programme for Kent Police and how those priorities meet

the needs/impact on individual Kent CSPs and their Strategic Assessments / Strategies and Annual Refresh documents [February 2018];

- Presentation by Kent County Council Trading Standards Officers [Min. No. 26 refers] be postponed until July 2018.

The Strategic Director (External Services) supported the Chairman's proposals and timings for incorporation into a revised Work Plan for the Committee for the remainder of the 2017-18 municipal cycle and beyond.

RESOLVED:

1. That Members approve the *draft* 2017-18 Work Programme for the Committee (attached as Appendix A to the report) subject to the changes proposed by the Chairman, as recorded above.

16. CRIME AND DISORDER (O&S) ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Members were asked to consider a *draft* report [attached as Appendix A] recording the work of the Committee during the preceding 2016-17 municipal year and agree its presentation to the General Assembly of the Council (GAC).

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Committee Co-ordinator for compiling the Annual Report recording the Committee's work during the 2016-17 municipal cycle. He thanked the Strategic Director (External Services) for her continuing guidance and support to the Committee and Members themselves, for their active contribution to the Committee's proceedings throughout the period under review.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Committee's Annual Report for the 2016-17 municipal cycle [as attached at Appendix A to the covering report] be submitted to the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Council for approval as presented.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Councillor R J Wells
CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS